

**Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center**  
**GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY**  
**Program Description and Requirements**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Department of Dentistry of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (Rancho) has long demonstrated commitment and excellence in training dental professionals to treat adults and children with disabilities and special healthcare needs. The Department's General Practice Residency opened in 1980 and is accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Rancho is one of four hospitals operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services which serves a population of approximately nine million. Unique within this health care system, Rancho is the rehabilitation facility for the entire County. Rancho has pioneered the provision of comprehensive, coordinated care for each patient through its innovative use of the multidisciplinary team approach. Rancho is fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Rancho serves the needs of the medically, physically and developmentally disabled. These patients have limited access to dental care in the community or elsewhere within the County system due to their disabilities. The Dental Clinic provides approximately 5500 patient visits per year (approximately 15% of which are pediatric visits). Rancho is, therefore, an exceptional training site for general practice residents. Click here to view [Patients Treated by Medical Diagnosis](#).

The goals of the general practice residency are excellence in clinical dentistry, preparation of each resident for a long successful career in dentistry and to serve the community as a resource in the treatment of people with physical and developmental disabilities and chronic medical conditions with disability. Residents are given experiences in initiating care for a wide variety of patients; evaluating their medical status; designing and completing appropriate, comprehensive treatment plans; and coordinating patient care with medical and dental specialists. In addition to attending general dentists, residents have the support of specialists in periodontics, maxillofacial prosthodontics, oral surgery, endodontics, pediatric dentistry, and hospital dentistry.

Residents are trained to provide appropriate dental care in a variety of settings. Residents provide dental treatment in the operating room to those patients who are not manageable in the dental clinic. These patients include both children and adults with spinal cord injury, craniofacial anomalies, cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, post-brain injury, and neurologic disorders. Residents are responsible for pre-operative evaluation, treatment, and management of the patient post-operatively. Residents are responsible for answering inpatient and outpatient consultation requests. Residents are also involved in various teaching experiences such as providing table clinics, in-service lectures to pediatric and allied health services, and training dental and dental hygiene students.

**II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**A. CLINICAL ATTENDING STAFF**

***GENERAL DENTISTRY***

Terrie K. DeBord, DDS

Chairman, Department of Dentistry

Full-Time: Clinical and OR Attending, Didactic Training

Michael Macalalad, DDS

Part-time: Clinical Attending and Didactic Training

Director, General Practice Residency

Eugene Schmidt, DDS

Part-time: OR and Clinical Attending, Didactic Training

Larry Odonon, DDS

Part-time: OR, Clinical Attending General Dentistry and Endodontics

Mary Murakawa, DDS

Part-time: Clinical Attending and Didactic Training

Lori Malinbaum, DDS

Part-time: Clinical Attending and Didactic Training

Andrew J Lin, DDS

Part-time: OR and Clinical Attending and Didactic Training

Tennille Rozak, DDS

Part-time: Clinical Attending and Didactic Training

Eriq Nguyen, DDS

Part-time: OR and Clinical Attending

Lukaz Gorski, DDS

Part-time: Clinical Attending

Mandana Ziai, DDS

Part-time: Clinical Attending and Didactic Training

### ***PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY***

Ronald Fujioka, DDS

Part-time: Clinical Attending

Amy Nguyen, DDS

Part-time: Clinical Attending and Didactic Training

Janice Park-Kim, DDS

Part-time: Clinical Attending

Thanh Tami Ton, DDS

Part-time: Clinical Attending

### ***ORAL SURGERY***

Duke Yamashita, DDS

Part-time: Clinical Attending and Didactic Training

### ***PERIODONTICS***

Jeffery Pucher, DDS

Part-time: Clinical Attending and Didactic Training

### ***MAXILLOFACIAL PROSTHODONTICS***

Vincent Tso, DMD

Part-time: Clinical Attending and Didactic Training

### ***ENDODONTICS***

Larry Odonon, DDS

Part-time: Clinical Attending and Didactic Training

Andrew J Lin, DDS

Part-time: OR and Clinical Attending and Didactic Training

## **B. CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

The resident's primary responsibility is to provide general dental care to patients with medical, physical, and developmental disabilities. Greater than 70% of the resident's time is spent in the dental outpatient clinic. Residents complete clinical assignments, including consultation and emergency assignments, and off-service rotations. Clinical experience and supervision are available in general dentistry, endodontics, periodontics, maxillofacial prosthodontics, oral surgery, and pediatric dentistry.

## **C. ROTATIONS**

### ***ANESTHESIA***

The residents gain experience in the overall function of the operating suite and staff as well as an introduction to anesthesia procedures. The resident will assess patients pre- and post-operatively, start IVs, intubate, monitor and assist the anesthesia staff in inducing and maintaining general anesthesia.

### ***EMERGENCY DENTISTRY/TRAUMA***

GPRs are assigned for one week during the training year to the LAC+USC Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residents for emergency and trauma experience. This provides the resident opportunity to evaluate and treat dental and facial emergencies and trauma.

### ***MEDICINE***

GPRs are assigned to the Department of Medicine for 3-4 weeks to gain experience in doing histories and physical examination, observe management of inpatients on acute medical and medical ICU unit, and management of common medical emergencies.

### ***CLEFT TEAM***

GPRs are invited to attend the Long Beach Memorial, Miller Children's Hospital with the second year pediatric dentistry residents from USC. This gives residents a brief introduction to the multidisciplinary care needed by children and adults with cleft lip and palate and craniofacial anomalies.

### ***OBSERVATION IN-OFFICE SEDATION***

Dr. Lori Malinbaum has dedicated much of her time to providing care for individuals with intellectual disabilities. She invites Rancho's GPRs to her office to observe the provision of care by way of in-office sedation.

## **D. OPERATING ROOM DENTISTRY**

Residents gain experience providing dental care for patients under general anesthesia in the operating room setting. The Dental Department is assigned a surgical suite one day per week with ample time to complete two patients and, occasionally, three. The patients are those who are unmanageable in the dental clinic due to intellectual disability, involuntary movements, cerebral palsy, brain injury, medical problems or

immaturity.

The residents learn to evaluate patients for general anesthesia and comply with hospital rules and regulations to bring patients safely into the operating room for x-rays, diagnosis, treatment planning and completion of treatment while the patient is under general anesthesia. The residents are also responsible for post-operative care and discharge of the patients. Residents function as a 6-handed team of two residents and a dental assistant

**E. REQUIREMENTS**  
***COURSES***

AMED 750 a, b, and c	USC Dental School	Dr. James Tom
ACLS	USC Dental School	Dr. James Tom
Physical Evaluation	LAC+USC	Dr. D-D Yamashita
Periodontal Series	WLA VA	Dr. Joan Otomo-Corgel
Oral Pathology/Oral Surgery		Dr. D-D Yamashita
Literature Review		Dr. Lori Malinbaum
Treatment Planning Seminar		Dr. Mary Murakawa
Medicine Core		Dr. Terrie DeBord
Operative Dentistry/Esthetics/Gold		Dr. Eugene Schmidt
Maxillofacial Prosthodontics		Dr. Vincent Tso
Pediatric Dentistry		Dr. Amy Nguyen
Endodontics		Dr. Larry Odonon
		Dr. Andrew Lin
Operating Room Protocol/Hospital Dentistry		Drs Schmidt & Macalalad
St John's Cleft and Craniofacial Symposium		Dr. Terrie DeBord
SCAOP Annual Clinical Pathology Conference		Dr. Eugene Schmidt

- Residents participate in five department-sponsored CE courses.
- The residents participate in new didactic opportunities as they arise.
- Residents must satisfactorily complete all courses including passing all examinations in a timely manner.

***ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS***

Student/Resident membership is required in:

The California Dental Association

The Southern California Academy of Oral Pathology

Special Care Dentistry Association

### ***RESEARCH PROJECT AND PRESENTATION***

Residents are required, individually or in groups, to research a topic relevant to dental care provided at Rancho, Rancho's patient population, or other topics incorporating data from Rancho's clinical data repository. The research must be prepared in poster format suitable to be presented at the Special Care Dentistry Annual Meeting and the CDA Convention, in a professional PowerPoint format for the end of the year formal presentations, and in written format suitable for publication.

### ***CLINICAL CASE PRESENTATION***

Each general practice resident will also prepare a clinical case presentation to be given in June of the training year. Residents must select a case and identify a clinical attending staff member to guide the resident through the course of treatment. The presentation should include the medical history, pre- and post-treatment models, pre- and post-treatment intraoral photographs, treatment plan and discussion of the factors involved in treatment planning and treating the patient.

### ***QUALITY ASSURANCE/RISK MANAGEMENT***

In addition to didactic courses in quality assurance and risk management, residents individually or in a group will be required to participate in Department-wide or hospital-wide performance improvement project under the guidance of the program director.

### ***COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES***

Residents participate in the following service events:

Rancho's Pediatric Carnival	September
Rancho's Brain Injury Car Show	September
Rancho's Spinal Injury Games	October
Rancho's Stroke Fair, "Roll Around the Ranch"	May
Special Olympics Special Smiles	December & June

### ***PHYSICAL EVALUATION***

Residents must turn in copies of pre-anesthesia physicals done while on anesthesia (minimum of 2), history and physicals done while on medicine (minimum of 2), and dental pre-surgery physical evaluations (a minimum of 2). All must be countersigned by the supervising physician.

### ***ROTATIONS***

Residents must complete each rotation with satisfactory evaluation from the service attending staff in addition to completing the rotation-specific requirements as delineated in the rotation description. While on rotation, the resident must verify attendance with the dental department timekeeper.

### **COMPETENCIES**

GPRs are expected to demonstrate competency in general and hospital dentistry procedures and processes. The required competencies are listed on a "Competency Card" which lists the required procedures and documentation requirements. Residents will be assessed for competency in comprehensive patient care through case presentations. Procedure competencies will be verified by attending staff signature for each of the required procedures.

### ***PROGRAM AND FACULTY EVALUATIONS***

Residents are required to submit comprehensive program and attending staff evaluations 3 times per year. Residents are also encouraged to make suggestions for program improvement to the program director verbally or in writing at any time.

### ***RESIDENT EVALUATION***

Residents are evaluated by attending staff at least 3 times per year. Residents must pass each evaluation with an overall "3-Meets Expectations" in order to continue in the program. If at any time during the program, a resident is having difficulty, the program director and appropriate faculty will counsel the resident and determine a course of action to assist the resident in improvement. At the end of the year, the faculty will meet to review the each resident's performance and status of requirements to determine if a certificate of completion is to be awarded. To receive the certificate the resident must complete all requirements, have overall "3-Meets Expectations" performance evaluations from dental faculty and rotation attending in addition to completion of the program requirements.

## **III. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Requirements for California Licensure**

Successful completion of this general practice residency, including all courses, requirements, and competencies satisfies the requirements set by the Dental Board of California for a license to practice dentistry.

## **Salary and Benefits**

Benefits include medical, dental and malpractice insurance, and meals in the cafeteria while on duty. The salary is approximately \$45,752\* per year. Residents may have up to 13 working days approved leave in addition to the 11 County holidays.

*\*Effective January 1, 2015*

## **Selection Process**

Rancho participates in both the PASS and the Postdoctoral Dental Matching Programs. Application materials must be received by PASS by November 1st of the year prior to the program start date. Selection is based on academic record, national board scores, letters of recommendation, personal statement, and personal interviews. Graduates of accredited US and Canadian dental schools are eligible to apply. Graduates of foreign dental schools with a dental license in any state in the US are eligible to apply. Applicants must be eligible for employment with the County of Los Angeles, including the appropriate immigration status.